

Special Needs Project Demonstration Site RFA

July 2004



Special Needs Project Demonstration Site RFA

Presentation Overview

- Project Goals
- Purpose of RFA
- Emphasis Areas
- Target Population
- Funding
- Requirements of County Commissions' Applications
- Selection Process
- Scoring Criteria
- Timeline



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Special Needs Project (SNP) Goals

1. Improve school readiness for children with disabilities and other special needs and their families;
2. Improve early identification and intervention for children from diverse backgrounds with disabilities, behavioral/mental health concerns, and other special needs; and, thereby,
3. Strengthen the School Readiness Initiative and other First 5 California programs, including Preschool for All and Health Access for All; and
4. Produce evaluation results for evidence-based practices that will serve as a foundation for future program improvement and advocacy efforts.



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Purpose of RFA

To identify approximately ten existing First 5 School Readiness Initiative Programs to serve as First 5 California Special Needs Project Demonstration Sites.

Definition of SNP Demonstration Site

The designated school catchment areas of a First 5 School Readiness Initiative Program that will implement project goals delineated in this application.



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Emphasis Areas of SNP Demonstration Sites

1. Universal access to screening for early identification and referrals for physical and developmental issues, including social, emotional, and behavioral issues.
2. Improved access to and utilization of services and supports through coordination and reallocation of existing resources and building of new resources.

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Emphasis Areas of SNP Demonstration Sites (continued)

3. Inclusion of young children with disabilities and other special needs in appropriate, typical child care and development and other community settings with provision of necessary supports to help the child succeed in these environments.
4. Evaluation to determine effective practices and to improve programs' capacity to identify and include young children with disabilities and other special needs.

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Target Population of SNP Demonstration Sites

Children birth to five years of age who live in communities served by the School Readiness Initiative and who are:

1. Protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); or
2. Have or are at risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who require developmental, health, mental health, and related services and/or supports of a type or amount beyond that usually required.



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Funding for Special Needs Project

- Coordination and Training Contract: \$5 million
- Demonstration Sites: \$10 million
- Project Evaluation: \$1.5 million
- Infant Preschool Family Mental Health Initiative: \$1.5 million
- Workforce Development and other Key Issues (to be determined): \$2 million



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Funding for SNP Demonstration Sites

- A total amount of \$10 million is available from CCFC for all SNP Demonstration Sites over four years.
- At least a 1:1 new cash match is required to a maximum of \$1 million total state match over four years.
- Local funds used to meet the match requirement for other First 5 CCFC matching funds programs may not be used.
- The unspent allocation can be rolled over across fiscal years, but only utilized during the four-year period of its award.
- CCFC funds must supplement, not supplant, existing funds and may not be used for fixed assets or capital expenditures.



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Requirements of County Commission Applications

- Eligibility
- Content of Application
- Collaboration with Coordination and Training Contract Staff
- Evaluation Participation



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Eligibility of County Commission

Only County Children and Families Commissions are eligible to receive funding under this RFA and only existing First 5 California-funded School Readiness Initiative Programs will be considered as possible Demonstration Sites.



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Number of Applications Per County Commission

- Each County Commission may submit only one application for a single School Readiness Initiative program or a combination of programs that meets the criteria.
 - Los Angeles County may submit two applications.
- Rural or less populated counties may submit an application as a consortium with one contiguous county if necessary to meet the criteria for number of children screened (500 children).
 - No more than one consortium application will be selected.



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Content of County Commission Application

- Agreement Form - *Attachment 1*
- Participating Schools Form - *Attachment 2*
- Program Description – *Attachments 3A & 3B*
- Collaborative Partners Form & MOUs – *Attachment 4*
- Budget and Matching Funds Certification – *Attachment 5 (Forms 5A, 5B & 5C)*



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Program Description

- Brief and updated overview of existing School Readiness Initiative Program
Attachment 3A
- Overview of Emphasis Areas (addressing the outcomes for the child, family, program, and system)
Attachment 3B
 1. Universal Access to Screening
 2. Improved Access to Services
 3. Inclusion of Children
 4. Infrastructure



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Examples of Factors to Address Regarding Emphasis Areas - Narrative

- Describe current and proposed strategies and supports.
- Describe methods of community outreach.
- Describe partnerships and coordination of resources to deliver comprehensive, seamless services.
- Address the unique needs of culturally and linguistically diverse families.
- Address efforts to work with children with behavioral or mental health issues.
- Address efforts of pre-referral interventions.



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Examples of Factors to Address Regarding Infrastructure – Narrative

- Administration
- Governance
- Work with Collaborative Partners - *Attachment 4*
- Professional Development
- Fiscal Oversight - *Attachment 5*
- Evaluation

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Budget and Matching Funds Certification

- Form 5A: CCFC and County Match
- Form 5B: CCFC Funds Budget
- Form 5C: Demonstration Site Budget Detail
 - CCFC Funds

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Collaboration with Coordination and Training Contract Staff

- Participate in identifying a process for universal access to screening.
- Contribute to a training resource guide of evidence-based practices.
- Establish and manage local inter-jurisdictional meetings.
- Develop an annual Action Plan which includes a training and technical assistance (T/TA) plan.
- Commit to specific assurances at the Demonstration Site.
(refer to pages 26-27 and *Attachment 1* of the RFA)



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Participation in Evaluation

- Participation in ongoing data collection and entry using PEDS.
- One or more schools may be required to participate in Kindergarten Entry Profiles (KEP) data collection.
- Submission of documents regarding program activities.
- Participation in evaluation site visits.
- Correction, clarification and elaboration of the documents produced as part of their case study.
- Confidential assessments of the technical assistance provided by the SNP Coordination and Training contractor.
- Program quality improvement activities.



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Selection Process

Step 1 – Screen Applications

- Requirements listed in Section II.

Step 2 – Review and Score Applications

- Scoring criteria outlined in Section IV.B.
- Applications must achieve a score of at least 120 of 150.

Step 3 – Determine Awards

- Potential to yield information about effective models and practices
- Optimal geographic balance, variety of well-designed programs, and demographic diversity.
- Site visits if needed.



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Scoring Criteria – 150 Points Possible

- Overview of existing School Readiness Initiative Program. (20 points)
- Universal Access to Screening (20 points)
- Improved Access to Services. Coordination and allocation of existing resources and building of new resources. (20 points)
- Inclusion of Children. (20 points)
- Infrastructure
 - Administration (15 points)
 - Governance (5 points)
 - Work with Collaborative Partners (15 points)
 - Professional Development (15 points)
 - Fiscal Oversight (10 points)
 - Evaluation (10 points)



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Timeline for Special Needs Project RFA

- August 10 & September 9:
RFA Information Conference Calls
- October 4 (5:00 p.m.):
Application deadline for First 5 CCFC to receive
Special Needs Project applications
- November 1-9:
Site visits as needed
- December 2004:
Award letters issued to County Commissions



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